

# PETER STONE BROWN

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June 13, 1999

Hi Bob,

Well, you wanted to hear the tape from the show in England the CP recorded on mini-disc, so um (gee, I hope you don't find this *too* egotistical) I sent you some other stuff as well.

See, I wanted you to hear this new song about the Matthew Shepherd incident and it wouldn't fit on the tape. So I figured what the hell I might as well put some other stuff on there while I'm at it.

So you have the acoustic version (actually a home demo for copyrighting) and the big band version where I'm backed by some friends of mine who have an R&B band here called the Dukes of Destiny. So the live big-band version was done about 5 days after I wrote the song about this big event here called the Aids Walk. I knew they were playing it and I'd just written the song (right out of the newspapers) and I wanted to get it out there. So this was done with *no* rehearsal by the band. I went over the song the day before with the guitar player and gave the keyboard player a tape. And they just did it, and luckily I remembered the words.

Also on this first tape are some recent (Not Long After Midnight, Checking Out Time) and some not so recent songs. Checking Out Time and What Do I Do were recorded live at a club here the Tin Angel where I opened for Eric Andersen (CP & his wife Pam were in the audience). The guitar player backing me is a friend named Jim Fogarty who is one of my favorite people to work with as much as I can.

The other version of What Do I Do is a demo I cut in '88 with my band The Others. Also from that demo is When You Were With Me and Lonesome Surprise. The version of "You Don't Have To Close The Door" was my very first real demo as well as first time in a studio with various friends of mine backing me up including Turk (the guy on the album, as well as the keyboard player from the Dukes of Destiny).

The rest of the songs on the tape are from a show I did at another club the Chestnut Cabaret with my guitar player from The Others, Bob Jay.

Now (again hoping this isn't *too* egotistical) since I don't know when the hell I'm gonna play anywhere near you, I thought just maybe you'd like to see some stuff.

Now the first part of the video is by my band The Fumblers who were my band before and after the album, though some of the members were different (like the drummer on the CD, Turk, was a Fumbler at the time of the CD.) This was a reunion of the original members (the band had actually broken up by this time). The bass player, Paul was leaving Philly to return home to Michigan, so we decided to do one last gig. A friend of mine had just gotten a camcorder as a birthday present and showed up with it. So he and a couple of other friends (drunkenly) shot this video. One guy (actually my roommate at the time) forgot it was video and shot some stuff as if it was a regular camera, so *it is not your TV screen!*

Anyway the Fumblers was my favorite band because we gave up caring about the music scene and did it for the joy of it, rehearsing every Tuesday in my basement, all of us feeling like we were 16 and in our first band. It started out as a trio which was very weird 'cause I ended up having to play lead. Also our (original) drummer Mike is actually an incredible bass player who also (obviously) plays drums and some other stuff as well. Anyway, all of us were and are friends to this day. Even though some of the members changed over the four years of the band, only people who were actually friends to begin with were members (rare in the world of rock 'n' roll).

In 1993, we decided to do something completely insane and put on a revue, *The Rolling Fumbler Revue*. It was all 'cause before every gig we had a ritual of watching "Maggie's Farm" from *Hard Rain*. The band would always meet at my house and we did it every time. So we wanted to do a Hard Rain tribute show and kicked around the idea for a long time. One day I answer the door before a rehearsal and my friend Dan is there and says, "It's the Rolling Fumbler Revue." So I start asking all these other people from various bands if they wanna be in it, and for 2 weeks we held these insane rehearsals in my basement (ok, you're next) with waiting musicians sitting up watching TV in my living room. It was held the Friday of Labor Day weekend and we backed up something like 16 different people in all kinds of combinations (doing all kinds of songs) in about 3 ½ hours, all 'cause we wanted to play that version of Maggie's. It was a pretty insane to do because neither Danny nor me considered ourselves the kind of guitarists to back *anyone* up which was part of the fun of it, though occasionally we did bring in some help.

Anyway working back in time, I figured I'd also stick on a version of "Tweeter" which my band the Others used to do and going way way back to the original Others (yup keeping a band together ain't easy) is "Tell Me Mama" and me alone on "Tangled" when the bass player broke a string.

Some stuff (especially on the video) I put on 'cause I think it's pretty funny and as you will see, like someone else we know arrangements can get changed around quite a bit. The sound on the album though, is the sound I've always had (and still have) in my head. I had kind of hoped the Fumblers would go out on tour with me, but we broke up long before the album was released and it would've been economically impossible. I did put together a band here for the record release party that came pretty close to the sound of the album, but taking that on the road *really* would have been economically impossible. I always looked at going on the road with the Fumblers after the album would've been something like Bob going out with the original N.E.T. band after *Oh Mercy*. :-)

Anyway, I seriously hope you enjoy the music!